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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: GLOBAL ECONOMY, EUROPE, IRAQ, MIDEAST,  
SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA, EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

GLOBAL ECONOMY

1 "Atlantic gateway opens large opportunities"  
Columnist Charles W. Moore provided these remarks in the conservative Times Transcript, Moncton (10/22): "... That doesn't mean Atlantic Canadian ports are a shoo-in. New York and Baltimore are tough, aggressive competitors for Atlantic Gateway status, and have the advantage of being closer (or local) to major U.S. markets, while Atlantic Canada is handicapped by less than optimum rail links to the U.S. and central Canada. Panama is also building larger locks, which, when operational, will shift the advantage south to the many U.S. Gulf coast ports. On the other hand, a projected increase in volume of trade with the Far East suggests that there should be plenty of business to go around.... Panelist Brian Gerri or of the Canadian Retail Shippers Association ... pitched the idea

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of Canada negotiating a free trade agreement with the Indian subcontinent to boost trade, and most exciting of all in my opinion, creating free trade zones in the Atlantic region. A free trade zone would be a controlled-access area, ideally adjacent to a port facility, where goods could enter duty exempt to be stored and/or undergo value-added processing like finishing, assembling or reworking, before being imported to Canada or re-exported from the free port. Such an establishment would not only enhance container traffic, it has very real potential to create thousands of steady, high-paying jobs for Atlantic Canadians."

### 2 "The tribal beat"

In the nationalist Ottawa Citizen, columnist Leonard Stern stated (10/20): "... Radical and ethnic politics are distasteful anywhere, but the U.S. carries historical baggage that makes this game especially nasty. Georgia congressman John Lewis announced last week that he is supporting Hillary Clinton as the Democratic party's nominee for president. Many African-Americans were appalled ... because Congressman Lewis is himself black and a hero of the civil rights movement.... The assumption had been that black Americans, and certainly black leaders, would unanimously champion Mr. Obama.... Wrong assumption.... Mr. Lewis's defenders argue that it's demeaning to assume black people will automatically support black politicians."

## EUROPE

### 3 "Danger stewing"

The editorial staff of the conservative tabloid, the Winnipeg Free Press, reported (10/22): "... Mr. Putin went to Tehran, met with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Supreme Ruler Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.... He ... managed) to cause considerable mischief himself in the meantime, mischief that will have considerable impact on Mideast politics and Western relations with Iran.... Mr. Putin offered the Iranian mullahs ... the shelter of its nuclear umbrella. It is difficult to avoid the analogy of Canada's military relationship with the United States, in which this country's consistently inadequate military spending over the last four decades has left it incapable of defending itself and dependent on Washington's goodwill - and self-interest - and sheltering under America's nuclear umbrella even as it refuses to join its missile defence program. There is, however, one huge difference. Canada and the U.S. are natural allies.... The Russian president ... warning the United States, Israel and Europe against contemplating any Qthe United States, Israel and Europe against contemplating any serious action to halt Iran's nuclear ambitions.... American President George W. Bush ... warned that Russian protection of the mullahs' nuclear ambitions raised the probability of "World War Three," a nuclear world war this time. That is an exaggerated threat, but Mr. Putin has made it a possible one.... Mr. Bush may be exaggerating. Mr. Putin may simply be making mischief. But the

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ingredients for a recipe for disaster are coming together in the Middle East."

### 4 "The U.S.-Turkish divide"

The editorial staff of the leading/centrist Globe and Mail carried the following perspective (10/20): "The United States' military adventure in Iraq has harmed the strategically vital military partnership between the U.S. and Turkey.... but just how seriously the U.S. has mismanaged its relations with a country that has been a close ally since the 1950s became fully obvious only this week.... [T]he timing seemed almost designed to undermine the U.S. war effort, since Turkey has let its airspace be used and has been a crucial staging area for the United States.... The possibility now exists that Turkish soldiers will confront U.S.-backed Iraqi forces in pursuit of Turkish Kurds in Iraq."

### 5 "Made in the U.S.A.' wood showing up in Canada"

Columnist Gordon Hamilton reported in (10/20) the left-of-center Vancouver Sun: "American lumber companies ... have started shipping

wood into Canada.... [W]holesalers report that they can buy cheaper wood from U.S. mills than they can from Canadian producers.... With American annual housing starts at a 14-year low of 1.19 million, the confidence index of American home builders at its lowest reading ever, and sawmill producers engaged in a battle to see who will be the last to shut down, North America is awash in unsold lumber. It's no surprise that American wood is now showing up in Canada, said John Allan, president of the B.C. Council of Forest Industries.... Both lumber and plywood products are showing up in Canada with a 'Made in the U.S.A.' label."

## IRAQ

### 6 "American myopia on Arar"

In the editorial view of the nationalist Ottawa Citizen (10/20): "Much of the war against terrorism must be fought by governments in secrecy from their own people, but governments claiming the need for secrecy must be credible. On the Maher Arar file, the U.S. government is not.... They acted partly on bogus information from Canadian authorities.... The United States ... He told his story.... [M]embers of the United States Congress told him they were sorry. Mostly Democrats, it's true, scoring points on the Bush administration.... [I]t's hard to imagine even a New York Democrat would publicly side with Mr. Arar against his own president if he thought there were any chance it would come back to haunt him. Sticking to this story hurts the Americans more every day."

## MIDEAST

### 7 "Time to end the charade"

Columnist Salim Mansur for the conservative tabloid, the Ottawa Sun,

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opined (10/20): "Every American president ... has been tempted with the idea of an international conference on the Middle East for negotiating the final comprehensive settlement of the long festering conflict between Arabs and Jews. Now entering the last year of his two terms ... President George W. Bush also has been similarly tempted.... It is apparent that calling for an international conference on the Middle East to broker final settlement between Israelis and Palestinians is a default position of the American administrations when all the antecedent efforts have failed.... It is time for Americans to politely tell the truth and end the charade of demanding Israeli concessions for Arab-Muslim doublespeak where 'peace' means ... temporary truce in the war for 'liberating' all of Palestine which includes Israel."

### SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

#### 8 "Bhutto receives bloody welcome"

The editorial staff for the conservative Halifax Chronicle Herald carried the following view (10/20): "Benazir Bhutto hardly seems a white knight ... the former prime minister's return this week may indeed represent one of the best ways left to save democracy in her country. The viciousness of the forces that don't want her to succeed didn't take long to emerge.... Ms. Bhutto herself knew there was a strong possibility of an attack, asking beforehand for increased security, but had refused to take a helicopter, as proposed by the government. Some have therefore blamed her as being indirectly responsible for the carnage.... Although Ms. Bhutto and Gen. Musharraf are both flawed figures, their efforts to come to a power-sharing arrangement ... may represent ... the only realistic way for Pakistan to salvage a democratic system.... The way ahead, Qway for Pakistan to salvage a democratic system.... The way ahead, however, has already proved bloody."

#### 9 "The return of Bhutto"

The conservative tabloid, the Toronto Star, carried the following editorial (10/20): "Benazir Bhutto's triumphant return ... is an important step along the road to democracy in a country that has been under military rule since Musharraf seized power in 1999. A key test of Pakistan's commitment to the democratic process will come in parliamentary elections scheduled for January.... Unfortunately, Bhutto's return has been tainted by an unsavoury agreement that will allow Musharraf to hold onto the presidency for another five years, in exchange for old corruption charges against Bhutto being dropped. Nevertheless, Bhutto's homecoming and the impending elections are still a welcome opening for democratic reforms.... Restoring democracy to Pakistan will take time."

#### 10 "Bhutto is the last best hope for Pakistan"

In the words of columnist David Warren, in the nationalist Ottawa Citizen (10/20): "... The position of Benazir Bhutto ... has been immensely enhanced by the failure of the blasts to kill her. If she

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can remain alive, she now has an unprecedented and almost miraculous opportunity to pull Pakistan together, and inspire her people to fight against their worst enemy in the world ... the Islamists who are feeding on the country's entrails.... Ms. Bhutto ... has the

mass appeal.... She represents the last hope of the older ruling order in Pakistan's political life.... The Pakistan People's Party ... has remained the voice and force of secularism. It is also, at this moment in Pakistan, the only path out of hell."

11 "Bombings greet Bhutto: Deadly attack mars historic return from exile"

Columnist Eric Margolis commented in the conservative tabloid the Ottawa Sun (10/21): "On Thursday morning, former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived in Karachi.... While Washington and even the First Lady Laura Bush have been blasting Burma's military junta for brutal repression ... is waging war against its own restive people, thousands of whom have been killed by the armed forces. Shooting and beating rebellious Buddhist monks is evil; shooting and beating rebellious Muslim religious leaders is 'anti-terrorism.' The widespread view among Pakistanis is that Benazir's return and impending political power-sharing with Musharraf was engineered by Washington to add a veneer of legitimacy of democracy to his discredited military regime.... [T]he U.S. believes it can retain firm control over Pakistan and use its armed forces to wage war there and in Afghanistan against nationalist and Islamist forces battling western influence.... [R]ecent polls show a majority of Pakistanis believe America under President George W. Bush has launched a war against Islam, and that Musharraf is America's agent.... Pakistan's military should be assuring its commanders serve the interest of the nation, rather than foreign powers."

12 "The rogue state of Burmese generals: There must be army officers who don't want to fire on monks. We need to find those elements" Essayist and novelist John Ralston Saul editorialized his views in the leading/centrist Globe and Mail (10/22): "... The country seems never to have recovered from those few seconds in 1947, six months before independence, when a man burst into a meeting of the country's leaders, including Aung San, and shot them. With the elimination of that remarkable team, Burma seemed to go into a tailspin.... Since then, generation after generation of leaders in both the East and West has tried to deal with the real indifference of the Burmese generals when it comes to any form of reasonable government. Asian leaders are naturally leery of Western interference.... This brings back memories of European empires promoting progress.... Regimes such as Burma's do not engage in economic growth to spread the wealth. If there is more wealth, the generals and their good friends take it.... Almost every element for reasonable change is present in Burmese society. The only

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missing elements are international honesty and the minds behind the guns. There must be officers who don't want to fire on monks and other unarmed citizens. People who want to help Burma need to concentrate their attention on this officer corps. How is not clear."

### EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

13 "Will Olympic torch light way to changes in China?"

Columnist Jeremy Kinsman stated in the conservative tabloid, the Toronto Star (10/21): "... What could hosting the Games do to the Chinese regime?... The responsibility of hosting the world is having a positive effect on Chinese policy. But will it last past next summer? The question is really important because American influence in the world is in free-fall. The next administration will recover some of the respect and moral authority squandered over Iraq and associated activities, but other major countries must still pick up the slack that has fallen from American hands.... It is too soon to say that the hermit state of North Korea is about to join the world community, but signs are apparent of progress in reaching agreement on ending their quest for nuclear weapons and possibly even to start opening up this locked-down society.... China still has miles to go before the constructiveness of their international role matches the global reach of their economy, and we'll only know when the Games are over if these signs of forward movement will last. But the news on China is looking better, and that's good for the world."

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